Circulation of degraded quality of consumer goods in the market

4417. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that degraded quality of consumer goods are being circulated in the market on a large scale basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the schemes formulated by Government to prevent such goods coming into the market; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) Standards of quality of various consumer goods are notified by different agencies under different laws. For instance, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Department of Health) notify standards of quality of various articles of food under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, compliance to which is mandatory. Similarly, the Bureau of Indian Standards is notifying quality standards for various items including consumer goods. Conformance to such standards is voluntary unless made mandatory through Notifications issued by various Ministries under different laws such as the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Conformance of consumer goods to mandatory quality standards is ensured by the enforcement agencies under the concerned Ministries/ Departments who take appropriate action as per law against persons responsible for non-conformance. Government have not received any report regarding contravention of mandatory quality standards on a large scale.